THE
Lieutenant of the
Tower his Speech and Repentance
at the time of his Death, who
was executed upon Tower Hill,
on the 20. day of November.
1615.

Together with a Meditation and Vow of his
that he made not long before he dyed.

Mors mihi Lucrum.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Reader.

TO ſatisfie the World, which in a cauſe of this Nature, is commonly diſtracted into various opinions, adding or detracting from the truth, according to the humorous diſpoſition with which it meets: And to doe Right to the dead Gentleman, who (albeit his offence was foule to GOD and Man, and hatefull to himſelfe) deſerued both loue and pitty, for the Chriſtian end hee made,) haue I (Reader for thy ſake) collected the ſub-

ſtance of that Speech, deliuered by him before his Execution, though I may faile in circumſtance, perhaps in his order. Many falſe copies of it paſſe from hand to hand, and many vntrue Rumors of him. This, (if thou art not too much giuen ouer to miſbeleife) will ſtay both, as being with much labour gotten together, and confirmed by approbation of ſuch Iudgements as were then preſent, and neereſt and beſt vnderſtood him: Though I confeſſe it falls ſhort of that grace and life where with hee deliuered it, who I muſt needs ſay did it more exactly euen beyond ordinary report: & ſo praying vnto almighty God that thou mayeſt make that good vſe of this diſcourſe as he ment thee that made it, and as I doe that relate it, I commit thee to GOD.

THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

The effect of Sir Geruase Ellowis his Speech, which hee *made at his death on the Tower Hill, vpon the 20, day of* Nouember. 1615.

See many Faces in this place, which I know right well, both Lords and Gentlemen whom I haue honored, and doe still loue with many

many others of ſeuerall diſpoſitions. All you beeing thus aſſembled to ſee mee finiſh my dayes, the number of which is ſum'd vp, for the very minutes of my life may now be reckoned. Your expectation is to haue mee ſay ſomething, to giue ſatisfaction to the World, and I will doe it ſo farre as *I* can, albeit in that ſpeech of mine, I ſhall (as it was ſpoken vnto me the laſt night) but chatter like a Crow. But whatſoeuer *I* deliuer, *I* beſeech you to take from a wounded boſome, for my purpoſe is to rip vp my very heart, and to leaue nothing there which may proue any clogge to my Conſcience.

Tower his Speech.

Hither am I come to performe a worke which of all others is to Man the most easie and yet to Flesh and Blood is the hardest, and that is, To die. To hide therefore any thing for any worldly respect, were to leaue a blot vpon my owne Soule, which I trust shall be presented (through the mercies of my Maker, and merits of my Sauiour) acceptable before GODS high Tribunall.

And first I will labour to satisfie some, who before my apprehension were well conceipted of mee, but since my Arraignment, as I vnderstand, caryed of mee but hard opinions, for that at the Barre I stood stiffly vpon

the Iuſtice of my Innocence; and this they impute as a great fault, beeing afterwards that I was found guilty of the Crime. To which I anſwer, that I did it ignorantly: Nay I was ſo farre from thinking my ſelfe foule in the Fact, that vntill theſe two Gentlemen, (Doctor *Felton* and Doctor *Whiting*, the Phyſitions for my Soule) told mee how deepely I had imbrewed my hands in the blood of that gentleman, making mee by GODS law as guilty in the Concealing, as if I had beene a perſonall Actor in it: till then I ſay, I held my ſelfe ſo ignorant of the deede, and my Conſcience ſo cleere, that I did neuer aske GOD forgiuenеſſe, nor once repent mee of

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the Fact, such was my blindnesse. So that it was not onely an error, or rather a horrible sinne, in mee to consent, but a worse, to deny it, so Bloody, so Treacherous, so Foule, so Filthy a Fact as that was; for which I must confesse the King, and the State haue dealt honorably, roundly, and iustly, with mee, in condemning mee vnto this death. And thus haue I laboured and done my best to cleere this point, being willing by all good meanes to reduce your first opinions of mee, that as formerly you conceipted well of mee, so you would now with a charitable affection performe the last duty of your Christian loues towards mee, praying to GOD, both with

me, and for mee; to the intent that this Cup, whereof *I* am to drinke, may not be greiuous vnto mee, but that it may be a ioyfull conueiance to a better and more blessed comfort.

Some perhaps will thinke it to be a Rigor of the State, or aggrauation of my iudgement; that I should die in this place, but this doe I take as an honor vnto me, & herein doe I acknowledge my selfe to stand much bound to the State, in that I haue this fauour vouchsafed me to suffer Death in sight of my *Charge*, euen where I had sinned, on the Tower-hill, rather than in the place of common Execution, where euery base Malefactor dyeth.

Tower his Speech.

Many doe I see here whom I know well, and of whom I am likewise knowne: and now am I a Spectacle for them to be looked on, whom in former times (and in all mens accounts) they held neuer likely to come to such an end. But herein behold the iustice of God, who is so oppos'd against sinne, because that if we forget to seeke him whilst we may, he will finde vs out when we would not be found of him.

It is expected I should say something of the fact which I haue committed: And hither am I come resolued to cleare my conscience (before I depart this world) of all matters which I ei-

ther knowe, or can now remember. And so much I haue already deliuered in writing to my Lo. *Chiefe Iustice*: and to proue that which I wrote is true, I yesterday confirmed it with the receiuing of the blessed Sacrament, wishing vnto you all as much comfort by those holy Mysteries, as I tooke by them: and I doe heere (though not with such a bloud) yet with mine owne bloud, seale that which I haue written. For my selfe, I will hide nothing to make my fault seeme lesse, but will rip open this very heart of mine, and confesse before God myne owne vncleanesse.

I haue sinned exceedingly a-

gainſt thee O my maker; and in this am I moſt faulty, that I did not reueale to the King, ſo ſoone as I my ſelfe had knowledge of the buſines. But (alas) feare to looſe theſe worldly pleaſures, and the loue to promotion, made me forget my duty to my Soueraigne, and not to regard my God, who is a ſwift auenger of blood: and would to heauen I had truſted to his prouidence, and ſet the thinges of this world at nought, for heauens ſake, and a good conſcience. You ſee, Gentlemen, promotion cannot reſcue vs from the iuſtice of God, which alwaies purſues after ſinne: And therefore I exhort you not to truſt in men (how great ſoeuer) for they cannot hide themſelues when

God

God is angry; neither can they protect you from shame, when God will consume you: he that sitteth in heauen, will deride and scorne their foolish Inuentions. As for me, I will not spare to lay open my owne shame: Thinke you I care for the reputation of this world? No, I weigh it not. This my soule shall receiue more comfort from God in my vpright dealing.

My sinne, in this foule fact, was great, for vpon me lay all the blood, shed, and to be shed: I haue made many children fatherles, many wiues husbandles, many parents childeles: and I my selfe leaue a comfortlesse wife and eight children behinde me for it too:

for

for if *I* had reuealed it when *I* might, I had freed much blood from being ſpilt, in ſo much as *I* could wiſh (Gods *I*uſtice and charity reſerued) I might hang in chaines, till *I* rotte away by peecemeale: nor cared *I* what tortures my body were put vnto, ſo *I* might expiate or free the bloud of ſo many, (ſome in one place, and ſome in another) which is both like to bee ſhed, and is already ſhed, and the Lord knowes when it will haue an end.

Concerning my ſelfe, *I* will aggrauate the crime, by ſpeaking of euery circumſtance I can remember. And now it comes into my mind, what truſt that gentleman put into me: hee

reputed me to bee moſt faithfull vnto him;(Oh the vildneſſe of my heart!) I proued vnfaithfull,and was his deadly deceitfull friend.

And here (Gentlemen) I exhort you all that you would take notice of this, euer to bee faithfull to thoſe who put you in truſt.

Sir *Thomas O.* truſted me, and I was vnfaithfull and treacherous to him, in drawing tickets for him to his diſaduantage. I promiſed him ſecrecy, yet betrayed him, onely to ſatisfy greatneſſe: But God, who ſees the ſecret thoughts of mans heart, will diſcloſe all vniuſt actions at laſt: nay, I am perſwaded that whoſoeuer they bee that com-

commit ſinne in their child-hood, at one time or other it will be reuealed.

In this place it commeth to my mind, that in my yonger dayes (as wel beyond the Seas as here) I was much addicted to that idle veyne of Gaming, I was bewitched with it indeed: And I played not for little or for ſmal ſũms neither, but for Great-ones, yet euer haunted with ill lucke: And vpon a time, being much diſpleaſed at my loſſe, *I* ſayd, not in a careleſſe maner, Would I might be hanged; But ſeriouſly, and aduiſedly (betweene God and my ſelfe) clapping my hands vpon my breaſt, I ſpake thus, If euer I play again, then let me be hangd. Now gentlemen here you may behold the

ustice of God, paying mee my wish and imprecation home. Bee carefull therefore I exhort you, that you vow nothing but that vnto which you will giue all diligence to performe: for the powerfull God, before whom you make such vowes, will otherwise bee auenged:

In this place Doctor VVhiting *putting him in mind to satisfie the* World touching his Religion thus he went on.

THe matter you speake to mee of, saith hee, is well thought vpon; for I heare that abroad hath beene some

some murmuring and questions made about me for my Religion; Some giuing out that I was infected with Anabaptisme: A fond, ridiculous, foolish and phantasticall opinion, which I neuer affected but rather despised.

Many may thinke that the manner of my death doth much discourage me, that I should dye in a halter: I would haue you all not thinke that I scorne all such worldly thoughts, I care not for it, I value not any earthly shame at all, so as I may haue heauenly glory, in which

nour and glory anon in Heauen: and I make no doubt, but I shall sodainly be more happie then you all, and that I shall see GOD face to face: and if there be any point of innocency in mee at all, I doe vtterly cast it from mee, and I doe commit it wholly to GOD.

And for any matter of Glory, I doe with the Saints of GOD expect it through the merits of Christ, at the Resurrection: yea it is my glorie to die thus. I might haue died in my Bedde, or shooting the Bridge or else haue fallen downe sodainly, in

which death I ſhould haue wanted this ſpace to repent, being the ſweet comfort and aſſured hope of Gods fauour which of his mercy he hath vouchſafed mee; So that it ſwalloweth vp all feare of death or reproch of the World: wiſhing vnto all you (Gentlemen) who now behold mee, that whereſoeuer you ſhall dye, (either in your Beddes or elſe-where howſoeuer) you may feele ſuch comfort and reſolution as God in his mercy hath beſtowed vppon mee and my wounded Soule for this and the reſt of my grieuous Sinnes.

But mee thinkes I heare ſome of you coniecture and ſay, that I

expreſſe no great Arguments or ſignes of ſorrow: You think my heart ſhould rather diſſolue and melt into teares, then to appeare ſo inſenſible of feare as I may ſeeme: but I muſt tell you, teares were neuer common in mee: I may therefore feare though I do not weepe. I haue been couragious both beyond the Seas and heere in mine owne Country: but (Gentlemen) that was when there was no perill before mee. But now the ſtroke of death is vppon mee. It affrights mee, and there is cauſe to feare: yet notwithſtanding, my heart ſeemeth vnto you to be rather of ſtone than of fleſh. But I would haue you vnderſtand, that this boldnes doth not proceed from

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any manly fortitude, for I am a man, fraile as you are, and dare as little look death in the face as any other: the terors of death doe as much trouble my humane ſenſe, as of any man whatſoeuer: but that which ſwalloweth vp all manner of feare in me, & maketh me to glory and to reioyce in, is, the full aſſurance which I conceiue of the vnſpeakable loue of God to thoſe who are his, of which number I perſwade my ſelfe to bee one, and that I ſhall preſently enioy it.

I confeſſe I haue ſinned exceedingly, againſt thee (oh God) many wayes, in prophaning thy holy Sabaoths, in taking thy glorious name in vaine, in

my concupiſcence in turning all thy graces into wantonnes, in my Riotous waſting ſo many of thy good Creatures, as would haue relieued many poore people, whoſe prayers *I* might haue had this day.

I haue ſinned againſt thee in my Child-hood: but Childrens ſinnes are childiſhly performed: but *I* confirmed them in my manhood, there was my ſinne. *I* am perſwaded, there is no ſinne, that a man committeth in his life, knowing it to be a ſin, and not repenting of it, but the Lord will iudge it.

I admoniſh you therefore that are

heere assembled, to take good notice of your sinnes, and let none escape you vnrepented. And yet when you haue done the best you can, there will lie buried some one sinne or other sufficent to condemne you.

O Lord clense mee from my secret sinnes, which are in me so rife. *I* abused the tender education of my Parents. You perhaps that knew mee, will say no; *I* liued in an honest forme, and was not bad in my life.

But I know best my selfe what I was: & if I who was so esteemed of amongst Men, shall scarcely be saued, what will

become of thoſe, whom you point at for notorious liuers?

The laſt night God put into my mind the remembrance of one ſinne of mine, which heere I will lay open, that others may take heed. *I* tooke a vaine pride in my pen, and ſome of my friendes would tell me I had ſome induments and ſpeciall gift that way: (though *I* ſay not ſo my ſelfe) but mark the iudgement of God in this; that Pen which *I* was ſo proud of, hath ſtruck mee dead, and like *Abſolons* hayre hath hanged me: for there hath dropt a word or two from my Pen, in a letter of mine, which vpon my Saluation I am not able to anſwer, or to giue any good ac-

compt

compt of. At my Arraignment I pleaded hard for life, & protested my *Innocency*, but when my owne Pen came against mee, I was forthwith not able to speake any thing for my selfe: for I stood as one amazed, or that had no Tongue.

See (Gentlemen) the iust Iudgement of GOD, who made that thing of which I was most proud, to be my bane: take notice how strangely sinne is punished, and learne euery-one to striue against it.

I haue heard the word of GOD, and often read it (but without vse) for I must tell you these two worthy;

Gentlemen (to whom I am ſo much bounden, God reward them for their loue) euen they begat mee very lately, for I am not aſhamed to confeſſe that I was to be begotten vnto Chriſt within theſe three daies: yea I haue often prayed againſt ſinne, and made many vowes to forſake it, but vppon the next occaſion, my foule heart hath beene ready to runne with the wicked.

Had I learned but this one leſſon in the 119. Pſalme, (Depart from mee ye wicked, I will keepe the Commandements of my God &c.) I had beene likely to haue enioyed many dayes heere on earth: whereas now you

all see mee ready to bee cut short by reason of my sinne.

But (O LORD) albeit thou slayest mee, yet will I put my trust in thee: let the LORD doe to me what hee will, I will dye vpon this hand (of trusting in him) if I faile many a soule hath miss'd; but I haue sure hope of mercy in him; hee hath sufficed and succoured mee, I am sure, euer since the sentence of death hath passed vppon mee: such comfort flowing from the Godly indeauors of these Gentlemen (the Diuines) that neither the Reproach of this Death, nor the Torment

Torment of it hath any whit discouraged me; nay, let me tell you, the last night when I heard the time was appoynted, and saw the warrant in Master Sheriffs hand for my death, it no whit daunted me: But what put this courage into me? onely the hope which I had in GODS mercies.

This Hope was a Seede, and this Seed must come from a Roote; I looked vpon my selfe, and there was rather cause to despaire; and iust cause, that I should not approach GODS presence. Thus then I disputed with GOD: This Hope being a Seede must haue a Roote, and this Roote is not any thing in Man, no, it is *Præ-*

scientia

Scientia (thy fore-knowledge,) O God, who hast elected me from eternity.

I will tell you, I receiued more comfort this morning, comming along the ſtreetes, than euer I did in all my life. I ſaw much people gathered together, all the way as I came, to ſee mee brought to this ſhamefull end: who with their hearty prayers and well wiſhings gladded and comforted my very ſoule: inſomuch as I could wiſh that I had come from Weſtminſter hither. I proteſt vnto you, I thinke I could neuer haue dyed ſo happily in my bed.

But you will ſay, theſe are but ſpeeches, and that I being ſo neere death,

my heart cannot be ſo free, as I ſeeme in my ſpeech: I confeſſe, there are in my breſt frailties, which doe terriſie, and will ſtill be buſie with me, but I beſeech you when I am at the ſtroake of death, that you would praie to GOD (with mee) that neither *Sathans* power, nor my weakeneſſe, may hinder my confidence. And I beſeech God that amongſt all who this daie heare mee, ſome may profit by my end: if I get but one Soule, I ſhall haue much comfort in that: for that one ſoule may beget another, and that other another.

I haue held you too long, but I will draw to an end: intreating you all to ioyne in praier to God for me.

Tower his Speech.

The ſumme of his Prayer.

O Lord God omnipotent, who ſitteſt in Heauen, and ſeeſt all things which are done on earth: to whom are knowne all occaſions of men; And who doſt deride and laugh to ſcorne their Fooliſh inuentions; thou (Lord) who art powerfull to Saue at an inſtant, bow downe the heauens, and behold Mee (wretched ſinner!) vnworthy to looke vp, or lift vp my hands vnto thee. Remember not (O Lord) the ſinnes which I haue committed. Driue away this Miſt which is before mee; and breake thoſe thick Clowdes which my ſinnes haue made, and ſuffer my requeſt to come into thy preſence. Strengthen mee in the middeſt of Death, in the aſſurance of thy

Mercies; and giue mee a ioyfull Passage into thy Heauenly Rest, now and for euer. Amen.

After hee had thus Prayed, hee tooke his leaue of all, with these words.

GEntlemen, I shall see your faces now no more: and pulling down his Cap in his eies, said some priuat prayer; in which time the Doctors prayed, and called to him, that hee would remember his assurance, and not be dismaied at the Cup, that hee was to drinke of: Hee answered, *I will drinke it vp, and neuer looke what is in it.* And after a little time more spent in

priuat

priuat prayer, hee said, *Lord receaue my Soule*: And so yeelded vp the Ghost.

His Meditation and Vow. not long before his Death.

WHom I considered Herods State, who though hee heard Iohn Baptist gladly, yet was he intangled with Herodias: and how Agrippa liked so well of Paul as hee was perswaded almost to become a Christian, and how young Mans will was good to follow Christ yet was there one thing wanting: meethought the state of sinfull man was not vnlike. For also how the Angler though hauing caught a Fish but by the chaps accounts it as his owne:

owne: the Bird taken but by the heele is a prey vnto the Fowler: the Iayler also holds his prisoner by one ioint as safe, as cast in iron chaines: then did I think what do these motions good, if not effected to the full? what though not notoriously euill? one sinne sufficeth to condemn, and is he guilty of all that guilty is of one? then said I vnto the Lord I will freely cleanse my waies and wash my hands in innocency: I will take heed that I offend not in my tongue. Lord let my thoughts be such as I may alwaies say, try and examine mee if there be any vnrighteousnes in mee.

Sir Gorwase Lewis.

FINIS.